

Department of Energy,

I as a member and a Director for McCone Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Circle Mt. am concerned about outcomes resulting from the Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu's March 16, 2012 memorandum that will affect Western Area Power Administration .

The Joint Outreach Team's recommendations would have far reaching consequences for preference power customers. The demand of time and money it would take for Western to comply with these recommendations takes away from their core mission which is the marketing and delivery of federal hydro power to preference customers at the lowest possible rate consistent with sound business principles. Western is already studying a lot of the recommendations that the JOT recommended. Western has always had its end use customers needs as a priority and has done a very good job getting preference power to the end users .

We are not all the same in rural Montana much less regionally. We do not all have the ability to implement some of their recommendations nor do I feel the recommendations that they have suggested are in the best interest for our members .

I ask that you consider the Montana Senates Resolution and not act in haste on the recommendations of the JOT.

Thank You
Patti Murphy